

**Course Name** : **Introduction to the Prophets**  
**No. of Credit:** : **3**  
**Course Lecturer** : **Dr. Leung Yue Wang, Michael**  
D. Min, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, US,  
M.Div, China Graduate School of Theology, HK  
**Date and Time** : **5 September to 5 December onward 7-10 p.m.**  
every Monday for 13 sessions (12 Sep Public Holiday No Class)

## **I. Course Description:**

This course investigates the biblical story of the people of God in the sixteen prophetic books of the Old Testament as well as their various narrative and historical settings in I and II Kings. It includes: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The course will provide an understanding of the overarching content (events, characters, and themes) and its original social and historical settings (8th–5th centuries B.C.E.). Attention will be given to literary genres, critical issues, and inter-biblical interpretations as they aid interpretation of texts. Historically it will cover the prophetic preaching from the divided kingdom through the Persian Second Temple restoration. The goal is to prepare students to appreciate, interpret, and teach from these books in ministries of the Church.

## **II. Course Objective:**

1. This course will offer a survey of the Prophetic books of the Old Testament (the Major Prophets including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the twelve Minor Prophets; per says in the Hebrew Bible as the Later Prophets, and also Daniel).
2. Particular it will touch on the general overview of the structures and formats of the prophetic writings, as well as the function of prophetic literature in ancient Israel and the development of the theological content.
3. At the end of the course, participants will have gained familiarity with approaches to read the text as well as some of the major themes in the Prophets and a deeper appreciation of the ways in which these books have been, and continue to be used in the enrichment of the Christian life of faith.
4. The course will take students on a metaphorical pilgrimage through Scripture. The beauty of the journey, is to experience how God coordinates His servants to compose the text. In such a way, the students can establish a more cordial relationship with the people and things, feelings and reason presented in the Scripture

### III. Course Format:

The course materials and lectures will be in English.

A willing spirit to begin a concentrate reading and contemplating the Scripture during the duration of the course is a pre-requisite; and student will be given opportunities to share their reflections.

Short clips will be given to provide a narrative overview of the books; while contextual overview and thematic topics are highlighted to provide a better understanding.

Discussions will be in and out of class and involved participation are graded. Submission of assignments will follow deadlines provided. There will be grade reduction for late submission, except for documented or medical emergencies.

### IV. Course Content:

1	Emerging of the Prophets and their Writings Approach to reading the Prophets
2	Overview of Isaiah Part 1 Speech: Symbol of Proclamation
3	Overview of Isaiah Part 2 Speech: Oracle of Salvation
4	Overview of Jeremiah Part 1 Narrative: Story of Calling
5	Overview of Jeremiah Part 2 Style: Biblical Poetry Speech: Oracle of Judgement
6	Overview of Ezekiel Part 1 Narrative: Symbolic Act
7	Overview of Ezekiel Part 2 Theme: Judgement and Accusation of God's People
8	Overview of Daniel Theme: Judgement and Accusation of the Nations
9	Overview of Hosea Amos Micah (Assyria)
10	Overview of Joel Obadiah Jonah Style: Poetic Metaphor
11	Overview of Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah (Babylon) Theme: Deliverance and Revival
12	Overview of Haggai Zechariah Malachi (Persian) Speech: Controversial Debate
13	Review and Hermeneutic Hinge

## V. Course Requirements:

1. Scripture Reading and Discussion Participation (20%): A minimum of 15 Biblical chapters will be provided per week as a focus reading; however, students are encouraged to read through the Prophets, and to participate actively in discussion during lectures and online (if available).
2. Focus Reading and Presentation (30%): Each student will be assigned to share their scripture reading each week, at most three times during the whole course; and their sharing would be based on a theme to present (judgement, salvation, deliverance, revival, hope, etc.) concerning the people of God, together with personal reflections.
3. Book Reading (20%): Declare the completion of reading on *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*, David Petersen, Chapter 1, p1-64.
4. Final Paper (30%; Master 6,500 words, Bachelor 4,000 words): Pick one or a set of a particular prophetic texts or chapters or books, belonging to similar social and historical context, and provide discussion on one or all of the following topics:
  - God in the eyes of the Israelis (concerning the accusation and judgement)
  - God in the eyes of the prophet (concerning the salvation and hope)
  - God in the eyes of the yourself (concerning one's own context verses the text context)

## VI. Bibliography:

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- Brueggemann, Walter. *The Prophetic Imagination: 40th Anniversary Edition*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018.
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- McConville, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament Volume 4: The Prophets*. London: SPCK Publishing, 2002.
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- Petersen, David L. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002
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- Sawyer, John F. A. *Prophecy and the Biblical Prophets*. Revised edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.
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- VanGemeren, Willem A. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Walton, John H., Victor H., Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Nottingham: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Westermann, Claus. *Basic Forms of Prophetic Speech*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1991.
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